

Chief, Dietitian Message

By COL Brenda Forman, Chief, Dietitian Section

Vision: *Army Dietitians and Nutrition Care Specialists: Nutrition Experts Insuring Nutrition Readiness for the Future Force!!!*

Happy New Year to each of you! I hope you had an opportunity to spend some quality time with your families and friends and have now returned with a renewed sense of purpose and enthusiasm for the challenges and opportunities that we will face in the New Year.

Vision and Strategic Plan Unveiled:

I recently unveiled our Strategic Plan for Army Dietetics and although this is a work in progress, I believe we are off to a great start. If you have not seen the plan, or don't have a clue what I am referring to, please check the SP website or our Knowledge Exchange site. You need to have a hard copy of this plan and become an active participant in helping execute the plan. If you have questions about the plan or want to volunteer to be a part of one of the working groups, please contact MAJ Sara Spielmann in the Corp Chief's office either by phone or by e-mail. As our vision articulates, we are truly "Nutrition Experts insuring Nutrition Readiness for the Future Force". No one knows our business and nor can they do our job better than we can.

Operation Iraqi Freedom

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of the dedicated dietitians and Nutrition Care Specialists who were deployed this past year as well as those who remain deployed. You've all done a phenomenal job and I am proud of each of you. We currently have 5 Dietitians and approximately 50 91M's deployed in support of OIF I. The dietitians are LTC Donna Dolan, MAJ John Kent, MAJ Wayne Kostolni, MAJ Mary Beth Salguiero, MAJ Colleen Kesselring, and CPT Julie Boyette. As this group prepares to return home, others are preparing to deploy for OIF II. Officers preparing to deploy are MAJ Sarah Flash (67th CSH) MAJ Sonya Corum (31st CSH) and MAJ Roland Talley (31st CSH).

Reserve Dietitians and 91M's

I also want to say thank you to all of the reserve Dietitians and Nutrition Care Specialists on active duty backfilling while others are deployed or serving as augmentees to active duty units. To my knowledge, we have soldiers serving at Madigan Army Medical Center, Ft Carson MEDDAC, WBAMC, BAMC, DDEAMC, Ft Hood MEDDAC, Ft Leavenworth, and Landstuhl Army Medical Center. I've heard many many accolades about the fine job you are all doing.

OIF Lessons Learned Conference

I'd like to express my extreme gratitude to everyone responsible for coordinating the OIF Nutrition Care Lessons Learned Conference, which was held in October 2003. This was a great conference and we were able to document many many valuable lessons and make recommendations for changes to how we conduct nutrition care operations in a TO&E environment. The draft report is complete and will be shared with the field very soon. Contact LTC Rich Meaney if you have questions or input for the report.

OIF Commemorative Coin

Thanks to many of you, we were able to purchase and present OIF commemorative coins to the dietitians and 91M's attending the OIF Lessons Learned Conference. I would love to present a coin to every soldier – 91M and 65C who deployed or will be deployed. If you'd like to contribute to the "coin fund", please feel free to do so. Checks can be mailed to me at the following address:

COL Brenda Forman
12914 Vista Haven
San Antonio Texas 78216

Many thanks to you in advance for your contributions.

OIF Lessons Learned Teleconferences:

I have directed LTC Sweet at the Nutrition Care Branch to host bimonthly teleconferences, which will give dietitians, and Nutrition Care Specialists an opportunity to share their story regarding recent deployments. The first conference will be held in Feb 2004 and will commence every other month thereafter. The POC for this initiative is LTC Anaychebelu at the Nutrition Care Branch.

Farewell to MSG Anthony Tate and welcome to MSG Rene Kinsey

We recently had farewell festivities for MSG Tate who will report to the Sergeant Major's Academy in January 2004. His replacement is MSG Rene Kinsey who comes to us from Tripler Army Medical Center, where he served as NCOIC, Nutrition Care and Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Pacific Region. MSG Kinsey has hit the ground running and I look forward to working with him.

March is National Nutrition Month

It's time again to begin planning activities for National Nutrition Month. MAJ Corum at CHPPM has put together an awesome resource packet, which can be accessed at the following CHPPM link: <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/dhpw/Wellness/nnm.aspx>.

I look forward to hearing about all of your initiatives in your April monthly report.

Corps Chiefs Award of Excellence Recipient

Congratulations are in order for **CPT James Pulliam**, the 2003 Corps Chiefs Award of Excellence winner for Dietetics. CPT Pulliam is currently serving as MEDDAC Company Commander at Ft Leonard Wood Missouri. CPT Pulliam is an outstanding officer and is very deserving of this award.

FDA Bans Ephedra

I'm sure you've heard the news, but in case you haven't, the FDA announced 30 December 2003 their plans to **ban** dietary supplements containing ephedra from the market. For more information on this subject, check the following website: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/initiatives/ephedra/december2003/> This is a major accomplishment, however, many companies are now marketing ephedra free products, which they claim will provide similar results for decreasing weight and enhancing performance without ephedra. I encourage you to continue to educate military beneficiaries about the appropriate use of dietary supplements.

ADA Call for Abstracts for Posters and Original Contributions

I'd love to see Military Dietitians with poster or original contribution presentations at the upcoming annual Food Nutrition Conference and Exhibits. The conference will be held October 2 – 5th, 2003 Anaheim California. The deadline for abstracts for presentations is Wednesday – March 3rd, 2004. You can access the following site for specific details for submitting abstracts:

http://www.eatright.org/Public/ConferencesAndEvents/96_18386.cfm